

VTP 13

ANARCHIST BLACK DRAGON
Washington State Penitentiary

Volume One

Number Two September 1978

The only good State is a State of mind that practices in word and deed its Revolutionary Thought...

Well, here we are again folks. Our first issue was about ten pages long; we sent it to comrades in Oregon for printing and distribution, but it seems to have disappeared and no one is answering our letters about it. We don't know what to think about that so we won't and will get on to issue number two.

Much has happened here in the past few months, and things are touch and go. At anytime we expect another lock-down here only this is promised by the forces of evil to be a long one. In July the State arrested a number of outside people, and threw in the hole some prisoners, claiming they were in some Brigade associated with the George Jackson Brigade, and that they were all conspiring to escape from this prison. So far the State has released all but one of the outside people, and has charged no Brothers inside. Ed Mead (captured George Jackson Brigade Member), Danny Atteberry, Joseph Green, and Mark La Rue, were the prisoners arrested inside and they are still in solitary confinement. Letters of protest about this, and the conditions and treatment in solitary/segregation to the Governor of this State (Dixie Lee Ray) would be appreciated by the Brothers. The unit is a Behavior Modification Unit and the Brothers are still fighting tooth and nail against the forces of evil in there. One prison committed suicide a few days ago.

Shortly after the above a bomb went off in the officers control room injuring three guards; one latter died (they were playing with the bomb!). We had a two week lock-down behind that, and the Director of Corrections and the Warden quit/were fired, both had been here less than a year. At the same time two prisoners made good an escape, haven't been seen since, Right On! After the lock-down two guards off duty took shots at the guard towers, no charges have been brought against them, they were merely fired.

While this issue goes to press racial tension on a first time serious level is rising in this prison, but the struggle to stop it is being waged by all sides, to stop it takes more than words and we hope that practice tells the story positively for all. The enemy Brothers, and Sisters, is not each other, it is the State.

Another new prison is being requested by the State, this one is to hold 400 prisoners. We have an article on this and other issues.

We wish to thank all of you out there who know of us here, and have sent us letters of support. For the rest of you reading this we are known as the Anarchist Black Dragon Collective. We are all male prisoners, some of us are white, some black, some red, and some brown. Many of us are gay. We do not wish to say how many of us there are or who we are for obvious reasons, but we have been in existance for approximately one year now. We are Bakuninists as far as organization goes. Some of us are Anarchist Communists, others are Anarchists, and some are just Anarchist minded. We are into propaganda, agitation, instigation, and study. Your support is vital to our existance literally. This publication can not at this time come out above ground regularly, so we have no address to write to. Any and all communication with us must be done through outside Anarchist Publications with a request to them to print it so we can see it.

The Adminstration is aware that our Collective exists, but they can not find out who we are to any damaging effects, we wish to keep it that way.

We send our love to all who read this, and ask you not forget us in the prisons, we are eye ball to eye ball with the forces of evil and only your awareness and support can save us from violence from the forces of evil.

Neither God Nor Master

Anarchist Black Dragon Collective

PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTE FAR AND WIDE FOR US WE HAVE NO FUNDS OR ABILITY TO PRODUCE COPIES OURSELVES AND THIS PUBLICATION DEPENDS UPON YOUR HELP TO GET AROUND. PLEASE MAIL COPIES INTO ANY AND ALL PRISONERS THAT YOU CAN. THANK YOU...

UNITY

No matter our differences. No matter our skin.
No matter the language we speak. We are all
Brothers and Sisters. We have the right to more
than existance, to more than what surrounds us.

The only way to get what we have coming is to
get it together...

UNITED WAY IS A RIP OFF

It is a well known fact that the organization known as United Way takes 78% of its income and spends it on salaries. The president of this organization makes over one hundred thousand dollars a year. United Way employs approximately 400 people, most of them get peanuts for wages. This organization claims to help needy people and exists on donations, it is a non-profit organization? This is an open fact, but the government can do nothing about it because it is legal.

The Heart Crusade, and the Cancer Society, are two top noch organizations that spend over 70% of your donated dollar on research to find cures for cancer, but why? United Way helps needy people, nobody in the ruling class cares about needy people-needy people are of the lower classes so their not important, but heart decease and cancer strikes everyone. The ruling class suffers the most from heart decease and cancer...

JUNK FOOD

The ruling class doesn't eat it, the lower classes produce it and eat it. The ruling class profits from lower class labour, and lower class deaths. The lower classes pay for every thing at high prices, even for the space they are buried in...

THE NEW PRISON IS AN OLD IDEA

The reason for crime is the system itself. It is good for Capitalism to have crime and it is important and good for Capitalism to have unemployment. The system cannot sustain Harmony, it makes for chaos and disorder. In the Capitalist system there must be classes, and not all of those classes can rule or profit from the system. Therefore, crime, unemployment, and welfare maintain the "harmony" that keeps the system going.

The lower classes are becoming more numerous, and it is becoming harder and harder to survive for these classes. The system cannot carry them on unemployment or welfare for that is not profitable, and so prisons are needed to carry the load. But even the prisons themselves are a drain unless the prisoners can be made to work.

The State of Washington has tried repeatedly for many years to obtain new prisons rather than obtain funds or use any of the funds it has to improve conditions and treatment, or help anyone re-enter society "healthy". New prisons are also needed as a source of employment - i.e., more police. The State has failed because the taxpayers do not wish the burden new prisons will bring to bear on them. So, to combat this, the State does as little as possible about the conditions and the situation in the prisons until they become ghettos where violence and death rule, where drugs and homosexuality keep any lid on it (at least to a small degree that the State needs), and so the State tries to make a good thing last a long time. Thus, the public is terrorized by the violence, etc., and the State's suggestions that these "animals" may escape from behind the walls of the ghettos are greeted by the public who pay the money that is needed for new prisons and obtaining more police. In the process, more Civil Rights are lost and/or curtailed.

The State uses the prison situation in the system as a double-edged sword of propaganda. It can quote to the public statistics on how dangerous the prisoners are (thus maintaining and strengthening their authority), while at the same time collecting more revenue for more prisons. On the other hand, they use the prisons against the prisoners by the "stick and carrot" method. They compare the life of prison to the life outside. "Just conform and you can be out there with every good thing. Screw up once and you come back here." When given the choice like this, selling out to the State looks damned attractive.

Today the State says it needs a new 400 man prison to take care of the overcrowding and to stop the violence and drug traffic in the old prisons. The truth is prisons will forever be overcrowded until they deal with the system. They do no need a new prison of any size. They want a new prison. The time is right to hit the public up for the funds to survive and do what they do for the ruling class. It is a matter of survival to the ruling class. They must get bigger - or at least stronger - before we do. The machinery of the ruling classes only knows how to get bigger - not better.

It is a fact that in the Washington State Penitentiary there are over 200 mentally and emotionally disturbed prisoners who are, for the most part, in the main population. A number of them have never been sentenced to prison by any of the courts. These prisoners are a danger to themselves and the population, and are in return in danger from certain elements of the population. Approximately half of the prisoners here are young first offenders serving time for non-violent crimes against property. Another part is composed of old men and cripples, some in wheel chairs for life. Then there are those who have been here for years

WHEN THERE'S no need to punish them so. The remainder are drug addicts, and the REMAINING 10% or so can be labeled "criminals" who might be dangerous. Other than THE 10% who might well belong here why are these other prisoners here? Since there IS NO profit in letting them go they are kept here. It is good for business and WILL NOT blow the plans for further expansion and control that the State must have.

This idea is not new. It has gone on in this country for 200 years in every state in the Union. They are calling constantly for new prisons and more police. The real reasons for crime, and the real reasons for new prisons, cannot be let out, neither can the facts be released publicly - that all of us cannot be employed and must starve in ghettos, or die fighting each other and/or ripping off the upper classes.

Within six months this new prison will be overcrowded, just like the old ones, and don't forget that the old ones won't be torn down. The violence will grow in them all and the State will start all over again requesting new prisons and more guards, more police. When they put a wall around the whole country, then throw a net over the top, they will start on the world. If you don't snap to this reality now you will pay for all of it and maybe be one of the prisoners behind the wall under the net.

The truth is like darkness - terrifying unless you know there is nothing to fear. So it is with the State; no money and all it has is a bark. You pay taxes on everything and for everything that you do. Even dying is taxed along with the space you are buried in. How much longer can you afford this, how much longer can you afford to even live? If we do not act now can we stop the State tomorrow? without the prisons things can be changed. Saying "no" to them is the only realistic decision you can make to save yourselves from the system. It is a beginning. Refuse to pay/play. Force the State to deal with the real problems realistically and in your best, most positive interest. Deny them what they want only for themselves. Deny them the new prisons. Deny them the excuse to eat human beings alive for no other reason except that "it's good for business". Reject their rhetoric and demand the truth. See how they come around to you, their bread and butter.

Down with new prisons!

ANOTHER MAN

Was another man,
Two faced as well,
Pretended not and lived in hell.

Who faced himself in another glass,
And faced in it his life and as the
Ripples of it shook him so, to think
that he could sink so low.

He smashed the glass and slashed his soul,
Drowned in darkness
never whole.

C.K.

To ZERO, FREEDOM, ANARCHY MAGAZINE, BLACK FLAG and BLACK CROSS, to OPEN ROAD and OUR GENERATION, to HAPOTOC in Amsterdam, and the Comrades all in Australia: Hello kids, we love you and send greetings.

To Phil Ruff, and Bill in Australia, fellow prisoners, we also send greetings and love. Do not despair. We are the future. The heat on us all now only means that we are doing something. In order to be good to the people one must be good to oneself. Grin and say, "Fuck 'em if they can't take a joke..."

CREATIVE WRITERS WORKSHOP INC.
P.O. BOX 520
WALLA WALLA, WA. 99362

Dear Friend:

The Creative Writers Workshop at the Washington State prison at Walla Walla, Washington was formed in its embryo stage in June of 1976. The Workshop is beginning its third year of existence and has barely survived on small contributions, two very small grants, and the sweat of twenty members, and one outside sponsor, Bill Wilkins, Editor-Publisher of a small press publication, Nitty-Gritty, published in Pasco, Wa. Mr. Wilkins has been the chief go-for and leg man, contributing unselfishly of his time, money, and expertise as a writer.

The Workshop has published one anthology of prisoners writings, First Breath, and we have gathered together some selected works from our last two creative writing seminars, and the winning entries of our creative writing contest and we are putting together our second anthology.

Creative Writers has finally been granted permission from the administration to use space for establishing a workshop/ club room/ class room type facility which is open for use by the members everyday. The workspace is equipped with a small library, typewriters, chairs, tables, and coffee pot, all of the equipment was donated.

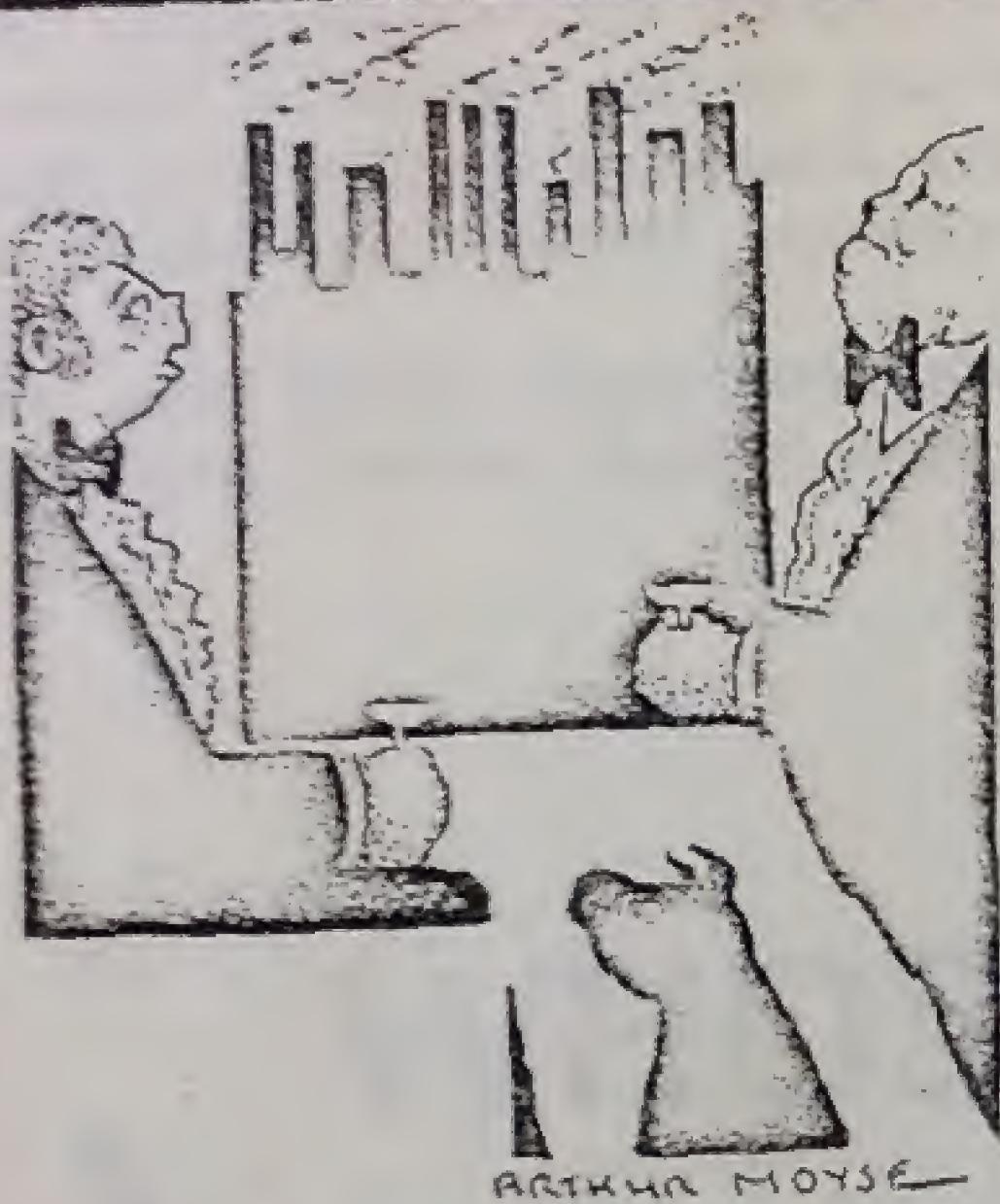
The Writers Workshop is a registered non-profit corporation registered with the Secretary of State of the State of Washington. We are in need of money (even the smallest donation will be a tremendous help), books, typing paper and supplies, postage, correspondents to share the editing and ideas and guests for the workshop. We are registered with the I.R.S. and donations are deductible and we can furnish tax number and receipt upon request.

The Creative Writers Workshop has been established in an effort to bring together those men here with creative writing talent and to assist those men in the development of creative writing as a craft, as an expression of human being, and a need to share our emotions and work skills as writers. The workshop is inmate-initiated and self-motivated in an attempt to get one more man out of the prison yard and help channel his energies in a positive direction. A direction that may provide a man with a skill that is marketable in the community to which he is released. The development of those skills are through the trading of information and exploration of creative writing as a therapy in dealing with life on an everyday basis. Skills to use as a tool in exchanging ideas and concepts, and also illumination of possible ways in which we can utilize our writing skills as a vocation.

Please send all donations, money, postage, typing supplies, books, etc., to: Mr. Bill Wilkins, Nitty-Gritty, 331 W. Bonneville, Pasco, WA. 99301, (509-547-5525). Address correspondence to: Richard Spurrier, 215458 8-A-6, P.O. Box 520, Walla Walla, WA., 99362.

Be Loving,

Richard Spurrier
Richard Spurrier, President
Creative Writers Workshop, Inc.
P.O. Box 520
Walla Walla, WA. 99362



"Tell me, Brother, how do you keep your Union Members in order?"
 "Simple, Brother, I use the Mushroom Method"
 "What is the Mushroom Method, Brother?"
 "Simple, Brother, keep the bastards in the dark and every once in a while shovel a load of shit at them"

ANARCHISM

—Interpretations

The revolution, as the power of things to-day necessarily presents it before us, will not be national, but international,—that is, universal. In view of the threatened league of all privileged interests and all reactionary powers in Europe, in view of the terrible instrumentalities that a shrewd organization puts at their disposal, in view of the deep chasm that to-day yawns between the bourgeoisie and the workers everywhere, no revolution can

count on success if it does not speedily extend itself beyond the individual nation to all other nations. But the revolution can never cross the frontiers and become general unless it has in it the foundations for this generality; that is, unless it is pronouncedly socialistic, and, by equality and justice, destroys the State and establishes liberty. For nothing can better inspire and uplift the sole true power of the century, the workers, than the complete liberation of labour and the shattering of all institutions for the protection of hereditary property and of capital."

BAKUNIN.

Anarchy is life, and the highest political act is to live it. The philosophy known as Anarchism is but the attempts to put that truth into words.

Anarchy is not an ideology, or a way of living; it is life itself. Anarchy is the harmonious unity of humanity and nature. It becomes political when we struggle in word and deed for its reality in our daily lives. It becomes an ideology, a philosophy, or a way of living when we try to practice it our individual, or collective, ways. If we just lived it individually and collectively, we wouldn't need any books on it.

To be an Anarchist is to be a human being going back and forward at the same time to this reality.

All systems pass away after awhile, but not so Anarchy. Anarchy has always been, and will always be, with or without humanity.

The truth of this lies in two places if we look; in nature and our own selves. If we continue under the illusions that we are under we will destroy nature and thus ourselves, or nature will destroy us...

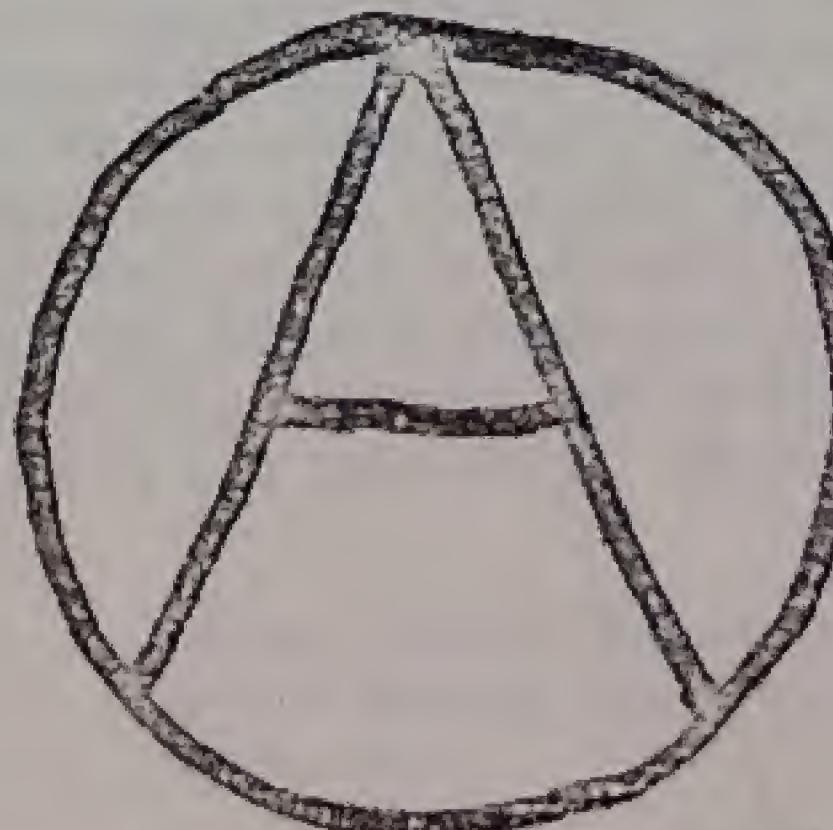
ANARCHY IS

Anarchy is that which is most important in the personal lives of all of us.

It is the greatest gift and the greatest curse the gods have taken it into their souls to give to men.

Anarchy is the set of two tines on the fork of Life.

One tine is Choice; the other the Will to Choose.



Government, the institution known as the State, as we know it today is nothing but a pile of shit, sitting on top of it will change nothing - we must abolish it. The first real step towards abolishing government is abolishing private ownership of the land - socialism can not be achieved by any other means.

So long as the land is owned by the few all of us will be slaves - Freedom is Equality, in Equality there is Peace, Truth, Justice, and Harmony. When want is destroyed need will be satisfied and humanity will rise to new heights. The truth is self-evident, the answer obvious, but we will not open our eyes, we will not think...

When visitors are caught bring contraband into this prison, or caught committing acts of violence on its property they are arrested and charged with a crime. Even to get caught thinking and/or talking about the above will cause them to be arrested. The same applies to any prisoners caught for or in the above. But when a guard is caught committing a crime here he/she is only fired.

We must think about this and start rising hell about it. The State talks alot about Equal Justice, let us demand some for ourselves around here...

WHOSE RIGHT TO KILL?

Political terrorism is not new. It has been around for a long time, for as long as there have been politicians. Governments have been using explosives for terroristic purposes since its invention. The "threat of nuclear terrorism" has been with us since Hiroshima and Nagasaki except that it has been not so much a threat as a reality, which has helped to shape our lives since 1945--or rather, to mis-shape them. It is grimly amusing to hear politicians solemnly warn about this "new" threat, when they have been using nuclear blackmail to help them "govern" the world for 30 years. There is likewise some macabre humor in the spectacle of numerous "world leaders" self-righteously making their predictable denunciations of "terrorists" as a threat to civilization, since it is these same politicians and "statesmen" and industrial and religious "leaders" who never hesitate to shower humanity with millions of tons of bombs whenever it might help to further the "national interest" of whatever ruling class in whichever imperialist squabble they happen to be involved.

Terror is the basis of every government. People will not obey their rulers--whether they are called capitalist or socialist or communist, or "democratic" or totalitarian--without the threat of force, and force is violence. All who govern do so through terror or the threat of it, however masked it may be by their mechanisms and institutions or propaganda and persuasion. Human beings will not voluntarily allow their exquisitely sensitive and intelligent bodies and

minds to be destroyed by the exhausting and monotonous rhythms of the factories and fields. We will not, without coercive programming backed up by "legal" enforcement, submit to the grotesquely inhuman requirements of "morality" imposed on us to serve the needs of the rulers. Nor will we of our own free will live in the barren, pestilential, carcinogenic slag-heaps of destroyed environment where government and industry billet us.

Who are these terrorists who deal in destruction which must be measured in megatons, who have become a threat not only to civilization, but even to our existence? Many are the bored, indulged off-spring of generations of pampered terrorists before them. Others are severely disturbed extremists with a lust for riches, bloodshed and power, and an insatiable craving for attention and idolization. Some few are probably just idealistic old people who have gotten in with a bad crowd. But whoever they are, they must be stopped. It is time for all the people of the world to unite in an all out effort to subdue this small but extremely dangerous minority of capitalists and "socialist" rulers who are devoting their lives to our daily destruction.

Recently the attorney general of California stated publicly that the only way to deal with terrorism is to kill terrorists. He may be right.

-From "Anticrat" newsletter
of the Strong Arm Prisoners Collective

THE POLICE

When a person becomes a policeman he or she makes a conscious decision to do that for good or bad reasons. Once in the police force they come to know what it is all about, and they either go with the system or resign in disgust. If they stay in the system they are not innocent.

There is such a thing as a good cop, but good cops don't last long in the police force. All of this is true of prison guards also. Many police and prison guards have good intentions while they work in the system, but they end up serving the system willingly or unwillingly. The only way not to serve the system is to quit working in it.

The "good cop, bad cop" game is played by the system very well. For example, in prison there may be a good guard, but when the goon squad kicks in the cell door you will see him in its ranks. The "good" guard, as the "good" cop, is caught in the middle between the prisoners and the other guards. In order to survive he must please the guards by his performance, and by identifying with them. At the same time he has to keep the prisoners happy.

"I don't like it any better than you do, but I got a job to do", says it all for the "good" cop and the "good" guard. Basically, we may like many cops and/or guards, but let us not be under any illusions who they serve. In the final analysis the truth is that they can quit anytime...*****

The Revolution is not above us, nor below us, nor on our left, nor our right, not in front, nor in back.

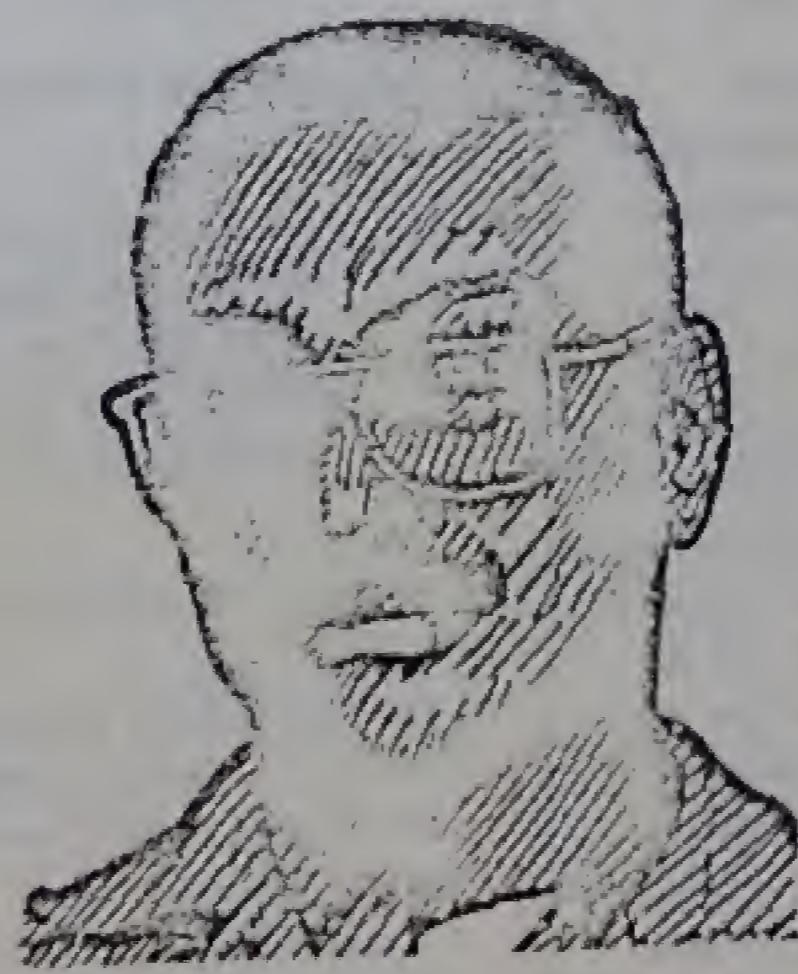
Revolution is what we are, and where we are.
That is our Revolution.

LORENZO "KOMBOA" ERVIN

Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, the Black Anarchist and prison organiser, has been placed in the notorious Control Unit Behavior Modification programme at Marion, Illinois Federal Penitentiary, after a protest by prisoners in the Isolation Unit and an earlier food boycott in mid-March.

The Control Unit at Marion is famous for having caused the deaths of ten men in the last five years (there were three alleged suicides in 1977 alone), and the self-mutilation and mental imbalance of hundreds of others. The Unit is used to punish prison organisers, "Jailhouse Lawyers", political prisoners, Muslims, and other "trouble-makers". It is apparent that Komboa is being punished for his anarchist beliefs and his prison activism.

Komboa and three other Black prisoners were placed in the Control Unit on April 3rd, 1978, after a protest in the Isolation Unit when several prisoners were brutally beaten by guards for complaining that glass was in their food. On his second day in the Unit, prison officials tried to set him up by letting two white prisoners out of their cells while he was taking his incarceration period and tried to incite them



to attack him, in hope that they would either kill or badly injure him. But the two prisoners refused to swallow the racist bait and do the officials' dirty work. As a result they were called "Nigger-lovers" and threatened with beatings. In the Control Unit there are constant attempts to pit one race against the other by the guards. Komboa asks that his friends, supporters and comrades write to the Warden to

protest about this conspiracy against his life and demand that he be released from the Control Unit immediately.



Write to : George C. Wilkinson,
Warden,
U.S. Penitentiary,
Post Office Box 1000,
Marion, Illinois 62959.

Also write letters of support to Komboa, prisoner 18759-175 at the same address. For more information and to help this comrade, contact :

Audrey A. Myers, Director,
NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO
SUPPORT THE MARION
BROTHERS,
4556A, Oakland,
St. Louis, Mo. 63110
(314) 533-2234.

Albert Meltzer
ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS
c/o 43 Egremont House
Lewisham Road
London SE13, England (UK)

ANARCHISTS, FREEDOM &

ANARCHISTS ARE concerned with human freedom. They object to all existing society because it prevents people running their own lives. In the 'free world' and the 'communist world' varying forms of capitalism * dominate and manipulate the individual in all aspects of his daily life.

To dominate people effectively, rulers everywhere proclaim that ordinary people are incapable of 'understanding' the intricacies of the modern world and their only solution lies in 'correct leadership'—in a 'disciplined' 'vanguard' 'party' that 'understands' the social processes and can guide the ignorant masses to the new society.

"Class political consciousness can be brought to the workers only from without", wrote Lenin in his 'What is to be Done' (his emphasis).

"Just as the blacksmith cannot seize the red hot iron in his naked hand, so the proletariat cannot directly seize the power; it has to have an organ accommodated to this task," added Trotsky in his 'History of the Russian Revolution'.

Recent 'defeats' in Britain are because the workers "had no trusted organization which could show the way to the new social order," says Paul Foot in his 'Why You Should Be a Socialist'.

Those who rule find the 'party' an effective means of controlling the ruled. That this is true of the extreme 'right' is widely known—the Nazis and fascists made no secret of their dependence on the authoritarian party, their Führer and Duce. But there is a widely believed mythology successfully making the authoritarianism of the 'left'.

Just look at a few snippets from Trotsky in the early years of Bolshevik rule :

"The working class cannot be left wandering all over Russia," he told the 9th Congress of the Party. "They must be here and there, appointed, commanded, just like soldiers...compulsion of labour will reach the highest degree of intensity during the transition from capitalism to socialism,...deserters from labour ought to be formed into punitive battalions or put into concentration camps."

"...that free labour is more productive than compulsory labour... is not true for the transition to the socialist order...and no serious socialist will deny the right of the Labour State to lay its hands upon the worker who refuses..."

"The young workers' state requires trade unions not for a struggle for better conditions of labour...but to organise the working class for the ends of production."

From here it is a logical step to see the 'party' as above those it claims to represent.

Thus Trotsky, with the full support of Lenin, attacked the Workers' Opposition in 1921, in the following terms:

"They have come out with dangerous slogans. They have made a fetish of democratic principles. They have placed the workers' right to elect representatives above the Party. As if the Party were not entitled to assert its dictatorship even if that dictatorship temporarily clashed with the passing mood of the workers' democracy."

These quotations trace the consolidation of the Bolshevik 'party dictatorship'.

In its beginnings the Russian Revolution represented something very different. 'Soviet' rule was self rule, and autonomous soviets, or councils had sprung up throughout the country. Some were based on places of work, factories, rail depots etc., and some on localities. All were based on grass roots democracy—all delegates were elected, all were revocable. In fact the soviet represented just the sort of rank-and-file management of affairs that anarchists fight for—which is why anarchists were positively involved during the events of 1917.

The Petrograd Soviet Military Revolutionary Committee included four anarchists; indeed the soldiers who dissolved the Constituent Assembly and dispersed the deputies were 'led' by the anarchist Zhelezniakov, a sailor from Kronstadt. "All Power to the Soviets" was originally an anarchist slogan, and was adopted by the Bolsheviks for purely opportunist reasons after it had become a popular demand. Following their 'coup' the communists set about dismantling 'soviet' power and replacing it with 'party' power. In the process not only anarchists, but all other political parties, and indeed all opposing factions within the Bolshevik party itself, were suppressed. Anarchists are not puzzled by

PARTIES

the fact that the Soviet Union today is one of the most totally repressive regimes in history. What else could have developed from the victory of Bolshevik philosophy?

On the road to power 'party' politicians pay lip service to democracy from below, not because they believe it, but because its advocacy wins the support needed to 'capture' the state apparatus. Like Lenin, the party politicians might write a 'State and Revolution', talk about every cook running the state, and adopt all the popular anarchist slogans of the day...but again, like Lenin, when the power is captured:

"Can any worker administer the state? Practical people know that that is fantasy..."

And what about the 'State and Revolution'? ... "Syndicalist nonsense...to be thrown into a waste-basket."

All a 'disciplined, vanguard party' will do (can do) is create a society in its own image, repeat what hundreds of other parties have done in the name of the 'revolution', install a new, more rationalized, dictatorship. Those who separate ends and means, those who believe an authoritarian 'party' can conquer society FOR the people are the true 'utopians'.

In every society working people are born in bondage, working class children grow up seeing their parents being told what to do by an employer, policeman and council or government official. Is it surprising they see this state of affairs as being the 'natural order of things', especially when that belief is reinforced by all the media, and in particular by the self-styled revolutionary organizations?

True revolutionaries must challenge these beliefs.

We do not need leaders!

We do not need government!

We know ordinary people ARE capable of running their own lives!

Genuine revolutionary activity is any action that hits back at those 'leadership' ideas, wherever they are found. It is any activity that helps demonstrate that workers can do without bosses and 'leaders'. It is any activity that tells workers how others have successfully fought and organized, in the contemporary world or in the past. It is any activity that builds the self-confidence of the ordinary 'man in the street'. It is not offering 'alternative' leadership.

Every worker who tells the 'party', the 'union' or the 'boss' to get stuffed, and with his fellows begins organizing his own life, deciding when he'll work, how he'll work, what he'll do with his leisure, and so on, is already building the free society. Every action that enhances workers' confidence in themselves is a creative and meaningful revolutionary action, as surely as any action that deprives the worker of self-confidence, encourages him to believe he needs a 'leader', a 'party', strengthens the existing society, perpetuates the division of order-givers and order-takers, and is 'counter-revolutionary'.

This is how an anarchist sees revolutionary activity. This is why an anarchist sees joining or supporting a 'party' as a fundamentally reactionary act.

BOB POTTER.

*I use the word 'capitalist' in a strictly Marxist sense, i.e. a society where people work for wages, produce a surplus which accumulates capital.

In the West there are still 'individual' capitalists, although their importance is declining rapidly. In the East the state itself is the 'personification' of capital, as Marx himself expected would be the case in 'advanced' capitalism.

(See esp. Capital Vol. III)

A CRITICISM OF THOSE WHO PUT DOWN VIOLENCE AND OF THOSE WHO USE IT

Armed struggle is a valuable tool, and we should not be afraid to use it. We must always be correct when we use it for it is violence. The hijacking of civilian planes, and the taking of children, citizens, as hostages is incorrect. The correct use of armed struggle is the expropriation of the expropriators, and the damaging of, the destroying of, their military bases, police stations, jails and prisons, their power stations and vehicles. Violence against persons is incorrect; to use it even against the enemy themselves is incorrect except in self-defence. The best, and most successful armed action is that which harms no one, and does the job. All the politicians, all the leaders, one kills are nothing, they will be replaced. But the system itself will collapse if hit enough times in the right places. If assassination becomes necessary, then this violence must be used correctly against correct State agents, i.e. criminal politicians, police, and military leaders, or against members of their personell who have committed a serious crime against the People.

Indiscriminate violence can not be tolerated by any serious revolutionary individual, or group. Everything must be done as correctly as possible. If in the course of struggle violence is used we must look to the People's reaction, not the State's. And if they reject the act we must criticize those who used the violence constructively so that they do not incorrectly use it again, not abandon them to the State.

When violence is correctly used, and innocent people are harmed, they understand and consider it a sacrifice to a worthy cause, but no one can understand incorrect and indiscriminate violence. It will alienate, and isolate, all who use it.

No one is innocent, save the children. In reality this is correct, but it is excuse for incorrect and indiscriminate violence of any kind. You do not take from

AGAINST

AUTHORITARIAN UTOPIA



WHAT DID YOU LEARN AT SCHOOL TODAY

APART FROM PRISONS, schools are the most undemocratic institutions in society. As such they are an unhealthy environment for the democratic education of our children.

The Libertarian Education Association says that many politicians and employers - and some teachers - are fighting to turn the clock back in schools, to revive an authoritarian Utopia.

'The cracks in the social system revealed by the economic crisis are all conveniently blamed on progressive educational methods,' say the Association. 'In fact, in most schools the changes have been very minor.'

The Association:

- exists to encourage progressive education methods
- opposes the examination system
- opposes corporal punishment or any form of compulsion in education
- calls for an end to religious 'education' in schools, and
- calls for democracy in schools.

'We need to equip our children with critical minds to understand the world, to see what changes are necessary to make it a better place for everyone, and to be able to bring about the necessary change.'

The Association calls on all parents, teachers, young people and others who share a belief in libertarian education to join it. 'We intend to defend the minor reforms that have been made, and go forward to campaign for a freer, more sympathetic environment in which young people can grow up free from fear and prejudice.'

The obstacles to this movement are the powers of local politicians, education officials and head teachers. 'Schools should be an integral part of the community, and under the democratic control of young people, teachers and parents.'

Education isn't a matter of passing exams and absorbing the ethics of competition, hierarchy and authority. 'Real education is the life-long process in which we are all learners and teachers passing on and acquiring skills and understanding as we go through life.'

Contact: Libertarian Education Association,
7, Creswell Walk, Corby, Northants.

the People; you give them everything and your all. When the People are not moved by your acts, your acts are incorrect. We must listen to the People for it is them alone who set the directions that we must go in...

THOREAU WAS A NUT

Henry David Thoreau once said something to the effect that when honest men go to prison the only place an honest man should find himself is in prison. He also had the idea that if a person feels that a certain law is wrong he should be ready and willing to suffer the penalties of that law to bring it to public attention.

Not meaning to sound disrespectful to old Henry, but the State loves people with attitudes like that. It is just as correct to teach people that when the State is wrong, it can be guided onto the proper track by giving in to it. Doesn't that sound just a little strange to you?

Personally, I like the dude myself. He had the guts to tell the System to mind it's own business. He found a corner that looked good and stayed there for a bit. For all intents and purposes he seemed to live a life of minimum hassle.

But he seemed to miss a point or two...

If a law is wrong, then the punishment attached to it is wrong also. To allow oneself to "suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" may be the way to go down in the history books, but if you look closely the first requirement is to go down. We hardly ever weaken authority by subjecting ourselves to it.

The State tells us that Thoreau was a fine man because he put his thoughts into action and supported the cause of liberty. At the same time they try to underplay the fact that he was still placed in prison by them for the very actions they tell us are good. It would appear that what they really mean to say is that anyone is good when they allow themselves to get the shaft.

Like I said earlier: If a law is wrong, the punishment afixed to it is wrong. The next time you have a chance to turn yourself in, run like hell for the nearest way out. Escape is self-defence. If it comes down to defending yourself with force, feel free. Anyone who would imprison a human being for any length of time, no matter how brief, for something that is not against humanity, is the enemy of freedom.

This section of the page is dedicated to GUN CONTROL. All of us here support the idea that guns should be controlled as much as possible. We have both seen and heard of situations where an absolute idiot has fired a gun indiscriminately and subsequently killed or maimed innocent people.

Acts of this nature show that these people should not be allowed to even look at gun catalogues, let alone handle a real piece of ordinance. Weapons should not, under any circumstances, be allowed to rest in their hands. They are menaces that should not be tolerated.

But until we are able to remove these guns from the hands of the police, they will no doubt continue to be a great threat to all citizens.

So until that day dawns when we will no longer suffer under the barrels of the oppressors, we will support gun control. Controlled guns shoot straighter, too.

JOINT ACCOUNTS

Some clown quipped the other day that this prison is like a restaraunt. It may be under new management, but the service is still the same. Security is a joke, the food is still old, and the hired hands seem to think that this is their own private playground.

One example is truely outstanding. One of the fish guards was recently the center of attention when a petition was circulated asking for his immediate transfer to an area where he would be less of an irritant. The petition, of course, was ignored by the administration. A few days later an inmate asked him to open up a cell that he no longer lived in. The guard obliged him, with the result that a fight ensued causing damage to the poor occupant of said cell. The guard has now been restationed.

A suggestion was recently made that the inmate counts could be more speedily taken and tabulated with greater accuracy if a computer was used by the officers here. The suggestion was forgotten, however, when it was discovered that there is not a single guard here who can look at the buttons on a computer console and press them at the same time.

Our new warden promised the public and inmates that his administration will once again institute due process. The last we heard, he had instigated a research group to determine what process is due.

And that's the news for September 26, 1978, 1958, 1938...

MOZAMBIQUE: "MARXIST" MESS

Contrary to what many left-wing apologists have written, the success of Frelimo is not leading to the liberation of the Mozambican people. It has led to their subjugation to a monolithic State-Capitalist regime, who now control all social and administrative units. Although they claim that in Mozambique the exploitation of man by man is over, at the third congress of Frelimo they revealed their objectives.

Frelimo has been transformed into a "vanguard party." It will continue its stranglehold on the whole of society--through its control of agricultural collectives, the army, the militia, the education and health centers, and the women's movement. The structure of this vanguard party is strictly hierarchical, with the power centered in the "Standing Political Committee." It appears that soon party unions will appear for better control of factory workers.

Frelimo's economic policy is to extract profit from both public and private enterprises, and use this to build up heavy industry. Agriculture is being collectivized in order to increase productivity. Health and medical facilities are being expanded, as the factories need healthy and trained workers. At the same time they have introduced austerity measures, and started a campaign for increased productivity--more work and less pay, a familiar story.

Under the guise of "liberation," they are

churning out a most revolting ideology. Their cultural and educational policy is geared to the creation of the "New Man" who "above all, loves his country." And presumably who will not cause any bother to the regime. The much-vaunted emancipation of women consists of replacing the traditional African marital relations with the modern western marriage. The family is to be the basic social cell. Unmarried mothers are a scandal, abortion is illegal. In fact, Frelimo is merely implementing social changes that are needed for their economy, all neatly described as emancipation.

But all this is not some accident. It stems from the very objectives of Frelimo. They have taken over the Mozambican state and now have to make it profitable in the face of international competition. They are able to succeed where the Portuguese failed because of their ideological hold over the farmers and workers of Mozambique. But as they find that they are no match for the West when it comes to economic competition, they will screw every bit of work out of the people that they can. For those who are struggling for the abolition of capitalism throughout the world, and the complete removal of hierarchical relationships, all national liberation struggles such as that of Frelimo are merely a diversion down the road of state capitalism.

--from Zero